

Application No. 10/699,695
Reply dated October 18, 2005
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment
(37 CFR 1.121) of September 20, 2005

Docket No. 1131-0491P
Art Unit: 1731
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REMARKS

This Amendment corrects the status identifiers of the claims as required by the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121).

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application in the Office Action dated November 2, 2004. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13, 16-18, and 21 are pending. Withdrawn claims 4, 5, 8, 14, 15, and 19 and objected-to claims 10 and 20 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1 and 11 are amended, and claim 21 is added. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 10 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter. As indicated below, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected-to claims 10 and 20, respectively.

In addition, independent claim 21 is added to combine independent claim 1 and a portion of the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 10.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, and 19 from further consideration. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, and 19. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, and 19 at a later date if so desired.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-162884.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 4, 2003.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arnoff et al. (U.S. 5,107,866), and claims 11-13, 16, 17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnoff et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected-to claims 10 and 20, respectively.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance

In addition, independent claim 21 is added to combine independent claim 1 and a portion of the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 10. Independent claim 21 recites two cylindrical filter elements arranged in series, each of said filter elements including

a filter material,

wrapping paper wound around the filter material,

an adhesive region provided between the wrapping paper and the filter material and bonding the wrapping paper and the filter material to each other, the adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter material,

forming paper wound around the wrapping papers of the two filter elements to connect the two filter elements to each other, and

an outer adhesive region provided between the forming paper and the wrapping paper of the two filter elements and bonding the forming paper to the filter elements, the outer adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter elements.

By contrast, as can be seen in Arnoff et al. FIGS. 2 and 3, this document merely discloses a single wrap paper 11 extending along the entire lengths of filter plugs 14, 15, and

16, and fails to disclose wrapping paper wound around the filter material, an adhesive region provided between the wrapping paper and the filter material and bonding the wrapping paper and the filter material to each other, the adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter material, forming paper wound around the wrapping papers of the two filter elements to connect the two filter elements to each other, and an outer adhesive region provided between the forming paper and the wrapping paper of the two filter elements and bonding the forming paper to the filter elements, the outer adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter elements (as set forth in added independent claim 21).

Therefore, added independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

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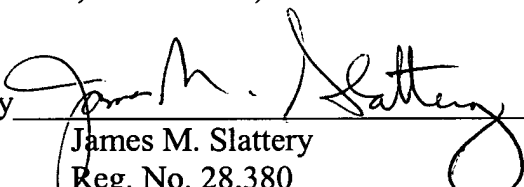
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All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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